

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension  
of the Educator Certificate of  
Jacob S. Brechko  
Certificate # 206196

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### ORDER OF SUSPENSION

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2003. On March 3, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing to Mr. Brechko by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Mr. Brechko received this notice as evidenced by the signed receipt and initially requested a hearing. Subsequent to this request, Mr. Brechko proposed to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand shall be issued by the Board, (2) he agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) the order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to reject the proposal and suspend Mr. Brechko's certificate for one year.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Brechko holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate, and has over one year of teaching experience. During the 2002-2003 school year he was under contract with the Hampton County School District One (District) as a teacher at Wade Hampton High School. Mr. Brechko resigned his employment on November 19, 2002, following an investigation into allegations that he wrote a few inappropriate letters to a female student that contained profanity and inappropriate subject matter, and also that he

offered a male student a certain grade on a test if the student would ask a female student an inappropriate question. Mr. Brechko freely admitted his actions and stated his remorse and his understanding that he must face the consequences of his actions. Mr. Brechko has not taught since November 2002, but is anxious to return to teaching.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. "Just Cause" includes "unprofessional conduct". The Board finds that the evidence presented by the Department supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Brechko's teaching certificate. Accordingly, the State Board hereby suspends Mr. Brechko's certificate from November 19, 2002, through November 18, 2003.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 12, 2003